

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph that begins at page 2, line 5 as follows:

As is known, the shelf paint vessel stirrers are devices designed for stirring the paint held in a vessel, and, to that end, use a driving assembly which transmit the required drive by engaging in a horn fitting, provided on the top portion of the stirring vessel cover.

Rewrite the paragraph that begins at page 2, line 11 as follows:

Prior stirring devices which, during the stirring operation, are operatively driven, do not include any protective means and, accordingly, are very dangerous for the operators.

Rewrite the paragraph that begins at page 3, line 12 as follows:

According to one aspect of the present invention, the above mentioned aim and objects, as well as yet other objects, which will become more apparent hereinafter, are achieved by a safety device for stirring assemblies, to be applied to shelf paint vessels, characterized in that said safety device comprises a top portion having coupling means for coupling to a top part of a shelf, comprising driving means, ~~mans~~ means for locating and centering the stirring cover, and further coupling means for coupling to a bottom portion, provided for covering a supporting element for supporting stirring means and all the provided driven elements.

Rewrite the paragraph that begins at page 4, line 21 as follows:

With reference to the number references of the above mentioned figures, the safety stirring device according to the invention, which has been generally indicated by the reference number 1, can be used in a module 2, comprising a vessel 3, containing a paint or other material, and which can be used on a specifically designed shelf, generally indicated by the reference number 4 in figure 1, including screw driving means 5, for driving a stirring assembly 6, in a per se manner.

Rewrite the paragraph that begins at page 5, line 11 as follows:

The safety device comprises a top cylindric wall 7, at the upper portion ~~thereof~~ of which are provided a tooth element 8 and a perforated bracket 9 for coupling and clamping, for example by a self-threading screw, to the top part 10, comprising the driving screw means 5.

Rewrite the paragraph that begins at page 5, line 17 as follows:

On the side portion of the top cylindric wall two guides 11 are provided, for allowing a stirring cover to be easily located and centered, whereas, at the rear portion of the cylinder, a cut-out or opening 12 is formed, for engaging therein a tooth element 14, formed in a bottom conic portion 13 of the safety device 1.

Rewrite the paragraph that begins at page 6, line 10 as follows:

In order to further prevent the bottom conic portion 13 from turning and following the shaft 16 of the stirring cover, on the bottom conic portion is provided a fork element 17 including a rib 18, counterbiasing the stirring cover so as to prevent any rotary movements, while allowing to compensate for possible height differences of ~~the~~ commercially available paint vessels.

In the Claims

1. Cancelled

2. Cancelled

3. Cancelled

4. Cancelled

5. Cancelled

6. Cancelled

7. Cancelled

8. Cancelled

9. Cancelled

10. Cancelled

11. Cancelled

12. Cancelled

13. (new) A safety device for stirring assemblies, to be applied to a shelf paint vessel, said safety device including a plurality of movable elements and a top portion having first coupling means to be coupled to a top part of a shelf, driving means, locating and centering means for locating and centering a stirring cover, and second coupling means for coupling to a bottom conic portion of said safety device, and for covering a supporting element for supporting stirring means, said top portion comprising a top cylindric portion having an upper part on which are formed a tooth element and a perforated bracket forming said first coupling means, wherein on a side portion of said

top cylindric portion are formed two guides for fitting and entering said stirring cover, at a rear part of said top cylindric portion being formed an opening for engaging therein a tooth element formed on said bottom conic portion of said safety device.

14. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 13, wherein said bottom conic portion covers, for an extension of about 180°, a horn element constituting a part of said stirring means and covering, in cooperation with said top cylindric portion, all said movable elements of said safety device.

15. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 13, wherein said safety device comprises a tooth element for coupling said bottom conic portion to said top cylindric portion while preventing said paint vessel from turning.

16. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 15, wherein said safety devices further comprises a bottom fork element having a rib interfering with said stirring cover, thereby preventing any rotary movements while allowing to compensate for possible height differences of different vessel paints.

17. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 16, wherein said compensation is achieved up to a level of 18 mm.

18. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 14, wherein said horn element comprises a stirring shaft, is made as a single piece of a plastic material, and has a top portion where two cylinders for coupling to said driving means are provided.

19. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 14, wherein said horn element has a bottom portion in which is formed a recess for engaging therein a sintered bush.

20. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 19, wherein said sintered bush is made of a sintered auto-lubricating material and is rigid with said stirring horn element.

21. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 18, wherein said stirring shaft has a

hexagonal cross-section and at a bottom portion thereof is tapering to a smaller cross-section, of hexagonal configuration, for allowing a stirring fan to be plugged-in and locked, said stirring fan being clamped by two tooth elements formed at a bottom end portion of said stirring shaft.

22. (new) A safety device, according to Claim 14, wherein said safety device further comprises a sliding ring nut arranged under said bottom conic portion, for preventing said bottom conic portion from contacting a seeger ring element for coupling and clamping said bottom conic portion to said horn element.